In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3-4 and 7, without prejudice, amend claims 1, and 9-10, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A communication device for communicating with a remote device by using one of a plurality of paths, comprising:

storing means for storing information relating to said plurality of paths, wherein said storing means additionally stores status information indicative of status of the individual paths in a manner associated with the respective paths;

selecting means for selecting the information relating to one of said plurality of paths stored in said storing means, wherein said selecting means selects the information relating to a path by looking up the status information;

packet generating means for generating a packet with a header matching the information relating to the path selected by said selecting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the packet generated by said packet generating means.;

monitoring means for monitoring the status of the paths;

supply means for supplying said storing means with the status of the paths obtained by said monitoring means; and

notifying means, responsive to detection of a change in the status of a path by said monitoring means, for notifying the remote device of the change of the status.

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2.   (Original) The communication device according to claim 1, wherein said selecting means selects, for a unit of connection, the information relating to one of said plurality of paths stored in said storing means.

3-4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Original) The communication device according to claim 4, wherein the status of the paths indicates whether the individual paths are available or not.

6.   (Original) The communication device according to claim 4, wherein the status of the paths indicates numbers of connections using the respective paths.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Original) The communication device according to claim 3, further comprising receiving means for receiving a packet transmitted from the remote device; and

updating means for looking up information included in the packet receiving by said receiving means and updating the information stored in said storing means.

9. (Currently amended) A communication method for communicating with a remote device by using one of a plurality of paths, comprising the steps of:

storing information relating to said plurality of paths, wherein said stored information additionally stores status information indicative of status of the individual paths in a manner associated with the respective paths;

selecting the information relating to one of said plurality of paths stored in said storing step, wherein said selecting the information selects the information relating to a path by looking up the status information;

generating a packet with a header matching the information relating to the path selected is said selecting step; and

transmitting the packet generated in said packet generating step;

monitoring the status of the paths;

supplying the stored information with the status of the paths obtained by the monitoring of the status of the paths; and

notifying, responsive to detection of a change in the status of a path by said monitoring of the status of the paths, the remote device of the change of the status.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for causing a computer to perform a process of communicating with a remote device by using one of a plurality of paths, the program causing the computer to function as:

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storing means for storing information relating to said plurality of paths, wherein said storing means additionally stores status information indicative of status of the individual paths in a manner associated with the respective paths;

selecting means for selecting the information relating to one of said plurality of paths stored in the storing means, wherein said selecting means selects the information relating to a path by looking up the status information;

packet generating means for generating a packet with a header matching the information relating to the path selected by the selecting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the packet generated by the packet generating means.;

monitoring means for monitoring the status of the paths;

supply means for supplying said storing means with the status of the paths obtained by said monitoring means; and

notifying means, responsive to detection of a change in the status of a path by said monitoring means, for notifying the remote device of the change of the status.